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Risca Urban District Council

Medical Officer's & Sanitary Inspector's

ANNUAL REPORTS

FOR THE YEAR
1955

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Risca Urban District Council

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the year ended 31st December, 1955

To the Chairman and Members of the Risca Urban District Council

Sir/Madam.

I have the honour of presenting my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health for your District for the year ended 31st December, 1955. This report is compiled according to instructions contained in the memorandum of the Ministry of Health.

SECTION "A"
STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF AREA

Area of the District (in acres)	4,199
Population 1955	14,760
Rateable Value	£55,988
Sum represented by one penny rate (estimated)	£200

Vital Statistics

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	14.17
The Birth Rate for England and Wales	15
The Birth Rate for Monmouthshire was	15.29

Infant Mortality

	Total	*Males*	*Females*
Death of Infants under 1 year ...	2	1	1
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live birth			9.12
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population			11.1
Death Rate for England and Wales			11.7
Death Rate for County of Monmouth			12.4
Infant Death Rate for County of Monmouth			33.96

Ages at death of Children under 1 year

Under 1 week	2
1-2 weeks	-
2-3 weeks	-
3-4 weeks	-
Total under 1 month	2
1-3 months	-
3-6 months	-
6-9 months	-
9-12 months	-
Total under 1 year	2

There are no special causes of sickness during the year which need reporting on. The general conditions of health were good.

CAUSES OF DEATH

	M.	*F.*
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	-
Tuberculosis, other	-	-
Syphilitic disease	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-
Meningococcal infections	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
Measles	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus ...	7	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	3
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	8	9
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	-	1
Diabetes	-	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system	11	6
Coronary disease, angina	16	11
Hyper-tension with heart disease	2	-
Other heart disease	16	9
Other circulatory disease	8	6
Influenza	-	-
Pneumonia	2	3
Bronchitis	8	-
Other disease of respiratory system ...	4	-

	M.	F.
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	-
Nephritis and nephrosis	-	1
Hyperplasia of postrate	3	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortions	-	-
Congenital malformations	1	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	7	9
Motor vehicles accidents	1	-
All other accidents	1	1
Suicide	-	-
Homicide and operations of war	-	-
All causes	101	65

Social Conditions.—The chief Industries carried on in this Area are coal-mining and its subsidiary industries, also steel manufacturing. There are also several stone quarries and brick works.

SECTION "B"

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

1. *Public Health Officers of the Authority.* One Medical Officer of Health and one Sanitary Inspector (whole-time Officers).

2. *Hospital Services.* Hospital Services are administered by the Regional Hospital Board as and from 5th July, 1948.

The Monmouthshire County Council is responsible for administering the following services under Part III of the Act:—

(a) Care of Mothers and Young Children

(b) Midwifery Services

(c) Health Visiting

(d) Home Nursing

(e) Vaccination and Immunisation

(f) Ambulance Services

(g) Prevention of Illness (Care and After-Care)

(h) Domestic Help Scheme

(i) Duties under Lunacy and Mental Treatment and Mental Deficiency Acts.

SECTION "C"

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. *Water Supplies*

The completion of the Llanover Scheme by the Abertillery and District Water Board has been of benefit to the Risca Area inasmuch as the long standing complaints of inadequate water supplies at Wattsville have now been eliminated.

As far as the area comprising Hill Street, Priory Street and Woodview Road is concerned, the installation of the Strathaven water tower has also given a consistent supply during the past year.

The part of the Area where the supplies are not consistent during the year is the higher levels of Taylorstown and Penrhiw where during dry weather the supply becomes inadequate.

2. *Drains and Sewerage*

There have been no important extensions to the sewerage and drainage system of the District during the year.

3. *Rivers and Streams*

No action was taken to check the pollution of rivers or streams in the area during the year.

4. *Closet Accommodation*

Particulars will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

5. *Public Cleansing*

There were no extensions or improvements during the year in the arrangements for public cleansing.

6. *Sanitary Inspection of the Area*

A classified statement of the premises visited, the defects and nuisances discovered and the action and result of action taken with regard to these will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

7. *Shops*

The shops in the area are periodically visited by your Sanitary Inspector and appropriate action taken to deal with any nuisances or defects discovered.

8. *Smoke Abatement*

No action was taken in reference to this paragraph.

9. *Swimming Baths and Pools*

There is one open-air Swimming Pool owned by the Council. This Pool is used to a great extent and is conducted in a very satisfactory manner.

10. *Eradication of Bed Bugs and Vermin*

22 houses were found to be infested with bugs, beetles or other vermin. In each case complete eradication was effected by means of spraying with D.D.T. insecticide.

11. *Schools*

The Schools in the District were visited during the year and when defects were found they were reported to the Education Authority.

SECTION "D"

1. *Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year*

(1) (*a*) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	96
(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	269
(2) (*a*) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	-
(*b*) Number of inspections for the purpose	-
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	-
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found to be in full respects fit for human habitation	

2. *Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notice*

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	89

3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year*

(*a*) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices ... ... -

(2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ... -

(*a*) By Owners

(*b*) By Local Authority in default of Owners

(*b*) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 8

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices 8

(*a*) By Owners 8

(*b*) By Local Authority in default of Owners -

(c) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing, Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made ... ... -

(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ... -

(*d*) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made 2

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... ... -

4. *Housing Act*, 1935. *Overcrowding*

(*a*) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 42

(2) Number of families dwelling therein 74

(3) Number of persons dwelling therein 292

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... ... -

(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 9

(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... 54

(d) Particulars of any houses becoming overcrowded after first relief ... ... -

SECTION "E"

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) *Milk Supply.*—Dairies have been regularly inspected and samples of milk taken and examined for bacterial content and for tubercle bacilli, under the various Milk and Dairies Orders. For details see Sanitary Inspector's Report.

(b) *Meat and Other Foods.*—For Action taken with regard to Meat and other Foods, Slaughter Houses, etc., see Sanitary Inspector's Report.

(c) *Adulteration.*—No special action was taken under these Acts and Regulations.

(d) *Chemical and Becteriological Examination of Food.*—Ample use is made of the facilities provided by the County Laboratory.

(e) *Nutrition.*—No action has been taken under this Section.

SECTION "F"

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

All cases of notifiable diseases are visited by your Sanitary Inspector. If, necessary, arrangements are made for the removal of patients to an Isolation Hospital.

There were 51 cases of Scarlet Fever as compared with 4 during the previous year.

Diphtheria Immunisation

Number of children immunised during the year 137

There were no cases of Diphtheria notified during the year.

Analysis of Total Cases and Deaths from Infectious Diseases according to Age Groups.

Diseases.	Cases Notified. Age Groups.													Deaths. Age Groups.													
	0 - 1	1 - 2	2 - 3	3 - 4	4 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 15	15 - 20	20 - 35	35 - 45	45 - 65	65 +	Total all Ages	0 - 1	1 - 2	2 - 3	3 - 4	4 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 15	15 - 20	20 - 35	35 - 45	45 - 65	65 +	Total all Ages	Number Admitted to Hospitals.
Diphtheria																											
Scarlet Fever		2	1	2	6	32	7	1					51														
Enteric Fever																											
Pneumonia	3	2	1	1	1	6	1	2	2	8	14	11	52										1	4	5		
Puerperal Fever ..																											
Cerebro Spinal Fever ..																											
Acute Poliomyelitis ..				1									1														1
Enceph. Lethargica ..																											
Dysentry	1		1						1				3														
Ophthalmia Neonatorum																											
Puerperal Pyrexia ..																											
Measles & German Measles	8	26	41	46	44	92	2		1				260														
Whooping Cough ..	6	3	3	9	6	13							40														
Other Diseases ..				1									1														1
Erysipelas ..																											
Food Poisoning ..						2		2	1		1		6														
Totals ..	18	33	47	60	57	145	10	5	5	8	15	11	414										1	4	5		2

Tuberculosis

Age Periods	Cases Notified				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0- 1								
1- 5								
5-15	1	5						
15-25	1	3						
25-35		1						
35-45	2							
45-65	2	1				1		
65 and over								
Total	6	10				1		

Inspections of Factories and Workshops

Premises	Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
Factories with Mechanical Power	36	-	-
Factories without Mechanical Power	5	-	-
	41	-	-

Defects Found in Factories and Workshops

	Defects found	Defects remedied	Refer to H.M. Insp.	Prosecutions
Want of Cleanliness ...	2	2	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation ...	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences ...	-	-	-	-
Insufficient	-	-	-	-
Unsuitable or defective	2	2	-	-
Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-
Other offences	-	-	-	-

I am, Your obedient Servant,
K. P. GILES,
Medical Officer of Health.

Risca Urban District Council

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

For the year ended 31st December, 1955

To the Chairman and Members of the Risca Urban District Council

Sir/Madam,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my Annual Report of the work accomplished by the Public Health Department for the year ended 31st December, 1955.

Statement of Sanitary and Housing Work completed during the year

Exterior

Roofs repaired and made weatherproof	62
External walls repaired or repointed	8
Doors and frames repaired or renewed	10
Eavesgutters repaired or renewed	24
Rainwater downpipes repaired or renewed	16
Chimney stacks repaired	5

Interior

Floors repaired or renewed	18
Windows repaired or renewed	27
Walls replastered	28
Ceilings replastered	12
Fireplaces repaired or renewed	8
Window cords fixed	41

Drainage

Flushing cisterns repaired or renewed	8
Flush pipe repaired or renewed	4
Burst water pipes repaired	9
Seats repaired or renewed	6
Drains repaired	10
Inspection Chambers repaired and provided with covers ...	9
New waste pipes fixed	7
New pedestal pans provided and fixed	7
New wash-up basins	4
Doors of W.C. compartments repaired or renewed	3

The following are particulars of meat and other foodstuffs surrendered and destroyed during the year:—

55-lbs.	Bacon	Decomposition
25-lbs.	Ham	,,
124-lbs.	Cheese	,,
27-lbs.	Sausage	,,
3 Stones	Fish	,,
5-lbs.	Butter	Taint
5-lbs.	Margarine	,,
163 tins	Tomatoes	Blown
15 ,,	Peaches	,,
23 ,,	Milk	,,
20 ,,	Beans	,,
17 ,,	Peas	,,
10 ,,	Pineapple	,,
15 ,,	Pork Luncheon Meat	,,
10 ,,	Corned Beef	,,
23 ,,	Tomato Soup	,,
76 ,,	Beetroot	,,
13 ,,	Fruit	,,
12 ,,	Salmon	,,
11 ,,	Beef Loaf	,,
13 ,,	Pineapple	,,
20 ,,	Steak	,,
18 ,,	Pears	,,
4 ,,	Cooked Ham	,,
2 ,,	Tongue	,,
4 ,,	Oranges	,,
2 ,,	Rhubarb	,,
3 ,,	Soup	,,
8 ,,	Apricots	,,
4 ,,	Plums	,,
3 ,,	Carrots	,,
4 ,,	Cream	,,
4 ,,	Spaghetti	,,

Slaughterhouses

Two private slaughterhouses are licensed by the Council to meet the requirements of local butchers.

Slaughtering is still carried on outside normal office hours on two nights during the week, but the duties of meat inspection have

been eased considerably by the appointment of Mr. Welch, Sanitary Inspector to the County Borough of Newport.

The Slaughterhouses are being conducted in a satisfactory manner. During the year 2,654 animals were slaughtered. The weight of meat and offal condemned was estimated at 1,976 lbs.

Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries—Rodent Control Scheme

During the past year the Rodent Control Operative has been very active in carrying out treatments as prescribed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. All business and private premises found to be infested were dealt with promptly and very satisfactory results were obtained.

The method of treatment consists of pre-baiting on four consecutive days, poisoning on the fifth and the poison left and dry dead bodies picked up on the sixth day. In all a total of 222 premises were treated for rats and mice, 197 private, 20 business and 5 belonging to the Council.

Two maintenance treatments of the sewer manholes were carried out during the year. This treatment consists of pre-baiting on two days and poisoning on the third day. From past experience I can say that these sewer treatments have the effect of keeping the degree of infestation at a safe low level and this has a correspondingly beneficial effect upon the degree and severity of surface infestations.

I am pleased to report that the Rodent Control Operative is most enthusiastic and conscientious and is doing a most important job in a very praiseworthy manner.

A very good sign too is the growing consciousness of this problem among the general public and we find that apart from the infestations found during routine inspections, people are becoming more co-operative in quickly reporting complaints of rats and mice.

Milk Supplies

During the year much time was devoted to the carrying out of the new legislation contained in The Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations 1949, The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations 1949, and The Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949.

The Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949, make a distinction between dairy farmers, *i.e.* milk producers, and milk distributors, *i.e.* persons trading from premises other than a dairy farm, and between dairy farms and other premises at which milk is handled. The registrations of dairy farmers and dairy farms under the Regulations is the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the registration of milk distributors and other dairy premises is the responsibility of local authorities. This means that Officers of Local Authorities no longer have power to visit dairy farms to inspect conditions under which milk is produced.

During the year 24 samples of milk were taken and submitted to the laboratory for bacteriological analysis. 20 were found to be satisfactory but the remaining 4 failed to pass the test required.

Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947

A great deal of time was devoted to ensuring that manufacturers and retailers of ice-cream complied with the above-mentioned regulations. This was particularly the case where the hot mix method of manufacture was used.

This method means that after the ingredients have been mixed the mixture shall not be kept for more than one hour above 45°F. before being raised to and kept at a temperature of not less than 150°F. for 30 minutes or 160°F. for 10 minutes. It shall then, within 1½ hours be reduced to not more than 45°F. and there kept until freezing is begun. Ice cream must not be sold unless kept at a temperature not exceeding 28°F.

4 samples of ice-cream were taken and submitted to the laboratory for bacteriological analysis. The 4 samples were found to be satisfactory.

Infectious Disease

All notified cases of infectious diseases were promptly visited and all efforts were made to trace any possible source of infection.

Advice as to the precautions necessary to be taken is given to the householder. Every house is thoroughly sprayed or fumigated when the attending doctor certifies the patient to be free from infection.

Shops Acts, 1912—1938

The shops in the district were visited on many occasions in order to ensure that the above-mentioned Acts were being complied with.

Whilst carrying out food inspection, advantage was taken to inspect the conditions under which the employees, if any, are working.

Particular attention was paid to cleanliness, sanitary conveniences and their conditions, washing facilities, and as to whether seating accommodation was provided for female employees.

With regard to the above-mentioned matters, I can report that these requirements are being observed by the shop-keepers generally.

Verminous Premises

During routine house inspection of both private and Council properties, care is taken to ascertain any infestation by vermin.

Any cases which are found in this way and those which are reported by tenants are dealt with by spraying with an insecticide and satisfactory results have been obtained. 22 houses found to be infested with vermin were dealt with in this way and eradication effected.

I am, Your obedient Servant,

GLYN M. JENKINS,

Sanitary Inspector.